

# Jupiter Sounds Like "sssshhhhh"

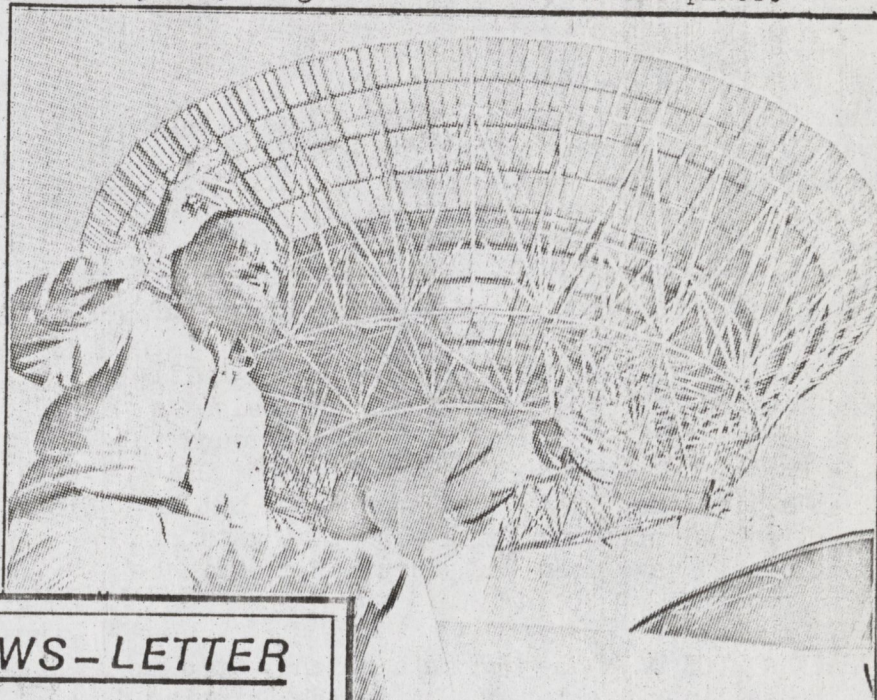
CALTECH'S BIG EARS COULD HEAR A CB SET ON THE MOON, BUT FOR THE LAYMAN THE DATA ACTUALLY GATHERED WOULD BE LESS INTERESTING EVEN THAN THAT. IT IS "SCIENCE FOR SCIENCE'S SAKE" AND THE ASTRONOMERS WANT MORE: THEY PLAN AN EXPANSION AT BIG PINE

FOR TWENTY YEARS, MORE OR LESS, CALTECH'S BIG SPACE-AGE INSTALLATION NEAR BIG PINE HAS GONE quietly about its business of gathering, recording and estimating a lot of cosmic static, or, in layman's terms, "listening to the stars." The operation attracts the barest, casual attention, if any, from the valley's residents; they've grown accustomed to the place.

Set far off the main highway, Caltech's big white metal ears stand starkly in contrast to the dark mountains beyond them to the east. Both in terms of what they do, a highly abstract business in any terms, and in their location, the Caltech devices are remote from the life of the valley. Hardly at all do they impress themselves on the consciousness of the folk who live and move across the Owens plain a few miles away.

But sometimes in the minds of the randomly curious, questions arise about the big white radio-things. Vaguely, it is asked, What are they?, What do they do over there?

And for the layman, whose everyday thoughts move in an orbit light-years a-



CALTECH'S HARRY HARDEBECK  
....what questions to ask him?

## The INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE - EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Compiled by John Heston and Benett Kessler

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HAS SMOKEY BEAR  
TURNED BUREAUCRAT?

Week of  
Feb. 20, 1978

way from the theoretical worlds of astronomy and radio-electronics, the answers are as vague as the questions. Even while in the presence of the people - "scientists" - who operate Caltech's Big Pine machinery, the visitor finds himself in the uncomfortable awareness, now that he's there, that he really has no idea of what questions to ask.

First, what are they? And we're already in trouble with that simple question. "They" go under many names, a nomenclature as broad and widely varied as the many university sciences that make use of them. The usual term used in the informal vernacular of the Big Pine complex (See "SSSHHHH", Page 6)

## THE HOMES AT "SEVEN PINES"

WITH 6 MILLION INYO ACRES, UNCLE SAM WANTS A FEW MORE; HOMES THREATENED

THE LAW, SAYS A 19th CENTURY SAGE, JOSEPH Storey, "is a jealous mistress, and requires a long and constant courtship." And, in the hands of a few bureaucrats she can be a tyrannical old harridan - a fact to which a few Inyo homeowners, faced with losing their homes to the Forest Service, will readily attest.

According to "the book," the owners of houses on the Seven Pines Forest Service lease west of Independence stand to lose them - all for the sake of expanding a campground by a few more spaces. In Inyo County, the federal government owns no fewer than 6 million acres.

The Forest Service is calling in its Seven Pine leases in 1980 when the 20-year leases, thought by many to be 99-year leases, come due.

The "vacation houses" west of Independence are only 17 of some 200 such "cabins" located on USFS leases in the county. Two of the 17 are lived in year-round. But of the 200, only those at Seven Pines appear to be in immediate destruction by the Forest Service. A Forest Service recreational staff officer, Tom Lewis, says the government has "opted to tear down the cabins there because of a higher need to serve the general public."

Lewis' "higher interest" is not based, however, on what would be considered an overwhelming need for campground space. The summertime use of the Seven Pines area is not excessive and the campground is rarely full. Instead, the Forest Service wants it for "the

(See SEVEN PINES, Page 7)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### "CYNOPHOBIACS," RESCUERS AND R2/C2

IN THE WAKE OF A STORM-CAUSED AVALANCHE MORE than a week ago, rescuers continued their search for three Bridgeport men swept into Upper Twin Lakes. By week's end, underwater divers had given up the search for more sophisticated means not so subject to cold temperatures: sonar equipment to scan the lake bottom, and a "magnet-meter" to locate a truck that was pushed into the lake with the men. Sheriff's men were also employing a still older method, that of dragging the lake. By Sunday, there was still no report of the victims, Robert Marti, 23, Henry Eitel, 34, and George Morse, 46.

"R2/C2" IS NO STAR WARS MOVIE IDOL, AND FOR sure lacks much of the charm of its Hollywood sound-alike, Robot R2D2. "R2/C2" is in fact a troublesome Inyo County zoning classification that popped up again in a supervisors hearing. Byron Merchant, a Big Pine developer, told the board he wants "total" approval of his proposed

(See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 5)



THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION of the Parent-Teachers Association has listed the TV shows it believes to be harmfully violent, and 10 others to which it gives its approval. Examples: The Waltons, Little House on the Prairie, etc. - over Kojac and Starsky-and-Ho Hum. The PTA is upset over violence. What it failed to mention was TV's real violence that gets not only into the heads of the kids, but also raises the adrenin level of the parents: professional football and, lately, boxing. The latter forms lack even the creativity of the writers who turn out the other guff.



BENNETT KESSLER

CBS WOULD HAVE DONE WELL to keep the \$4½ million it laid out to give us those two palookas who ineffectually slapped each other around in Las Vegas the other night. The champion, Old-What's-His-Name, is said to have lost, but he still got \$3 million; think what that kind of money could have done for education or scientific research.

"HAVE A NICE DAY" has become a cliché. It's one of those lines that started with the "hippies," so-called, and made its way into middle-classdom - like long hair and flared pants. Shopping and lunching in Bishop the other day, I kept track of how many times that line was thrown at me by store clerks and cashiers: Eight, not counting another half dozen or so I heard from people on the streets. When it's said without its original warmth, it becomes a sarcasm. Until we can find a new line somewhere, I think maybe we better go back to a simple "Good Morning" or "Good afternoon."

"HELPING THE BLIND" goes beyond providing seeing eye dogs and white walking canes these days. Far beyond. A worthwhile "charity" we know is the Braille Institute of America. BIA moves out to blind individuals for "anything necessary to enable them to integrate with the sighted community." Example: One student of the institute operates a 700-meal kitchen program; others at the institute learn golf. All are taught to deal with the things they need to know for daily living: home management, travel, reading, writing. Want to help? Send some bucks (tax deductible) to 741 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, 90029.

CRACKING DOWN ON THE "SQUATTERS," the Bureau of Land Management last week called in the Inyo County Health Department for a look at the litter left in Jackpot Canyon in the Panamint Valley. A mid-week "raid" last week turned up only "one of the filthiest places I've ever seen" in the words of one health department worker. The "squatters" move into remote areas, sometimes filing bogus mine claims on which they park trailers. A nearby spring provided water. The recent inhabitants set about raising pigs, goats, chickens. Such encampments hurt legitimate miners who sometimes must live on claims in the far-out boondocks; abuses by "squatters" prompt the BLM to throw out everybody.

WHETHER IT'S FOR "SPORT" OR FILLING THE FREEZER, we don't know, but there are still a few

diehard individuals and families in Inyo who think any deer in sight is fair game - at any time of year. Fish & Game personnel may soon be stepping up efforts to end the carnage.

THE NATIONAL GUARD has been called in to dynamite the land bridge to Mono Lake's Negit Island which is home to the second largest gull rookery in the world. Continued draining off of Mono Lake's input streams has left the former island a "peninsula," and wide open to all the predators that would destroy the rookery: coyotes, snakes, foxes and other animals. The cost of the project is paid by BLM and F&G. A "temporary solution" for Negit, at best. The problem came to public attention due largely to efforts of Dave Winkler, a UC-Davis ornithologist. The Guard will blast the bridge and create a deep channel between the lakeshore and the island. But that won't stop the real predator: the Department of Water and Power. Television crews are already lined up to film the big boom, sometime in March.

LONE PINE NEWSMAN BOB HARKE, is the latest of KINC's reporters to split with the station's management - divergent views on what was promised, and then delivered, to ad accounts. Bob goes back to what is probably a more worthwhile effort: running the Boys Ranch of the Pacific. Is there anything good left at KINC? You bet there is: improved music, and what are no doubt the best weather and road reports anywhere in the county's media - these delivered by probably the friendliest female voice on local radio. As for local news, other than bureaucrats' handouts, forget it.

THE RIDGECREST PAPER, the Daily INDEPENDENT, is still looking for a way to move into Inyo County. If the INDEPENDENT is successful, it would take a big cut of the county's ad revenues which are already thinly divided. The publisher is once more dickering with possible news sources here to provide county coverage - but that has gone on sporadically for the past two years.

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPT.: Valerie Gorman, the lively octogenarian matron of Independence's Oak Creek. Interested, and active, in Everything. One of the best-dressed, best-groomed, best-informed women we know anywhere. Delightful hostess to all callers.

JOHN GILFILLAN, the O.V. School superintendent, says he, too, has heard the rumors about him running for the office of county school superintendent. "Not true," says John who hasn't "given it any serious consideration." John and Mrs. G., incidentally, would rank high on our VPP list... (and probably high in the minds of the voters.)

PLAYING MUSICAL CHAIRS WITH HOUSES. A new accountant has moved in, associated with Peggy Noland, the Lone Pine lawyer. Richard Dudgeon moved here from Redwood City, and, with his family, bought Al Dubie's house. And Dubie bought the Leroy Kritz house. The Kritz's? Well, they rented a house somewhere and...

(See B.K. on Page 3)





LUCKILY ESCAPING MORE SERIOUS INJURY, DWP Worker Harry Hess walks away from a wrecked DWP truck in which he and Co-worker Bill Wadelton were riding when it went out of control and overturned on Division Creek Road north of Independence. The injured men found their radio was still working, and called for help to the remote area. Wadelton (inset) and Hess were taken to the hospital at Lone Pine. Their wives, at home not far away on that same road, were notified by telephone and were the first to reach the injured men. A blown tire may have caused the truck to go out of control as it moved down a steep grade.

B.K., Continued

DUDGEON IS SAID TO HAVE A CERTAIN EXPERTISE in tax accounting. For some time he served as controller in a Bay area children's hospital. Now, at tax time, he'll probably be busy here.

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AND ANOTHER NEW ADDITION TO THE NOLAND law office. He's John Kennett, 46, formerly of Ventura, a graduate or so we're told of Mid-Valley College of Law. A former marine, and apparently full of the Marine-like bellicosity that good trial lawyers are made of. He's been here only a little while - and already he's been elected to serve as the secretary of the bar association.

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MEANWHILE, PEGGY NOLAND SUMMERS pointedly requests the press to drop the "Summers" from her name in news accounts. Request granted.

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OUR MAN HESTON HAS A PAINED LOOK, and it's not from his sprained foot...It's the medical tab, which amounted to more than \$150. And for the \$150 what did he get? -Four X-rays which revealed no fractures, a demarol shot (Heston has been known to faint at the sight of a hypo, but he held up well this time), an Ace bandage, a pair of returnable crutches, and some kind sympathy from Doc Wilson. Too early Heston cast aside the crutches for a cane. Ebony, no less, and with an ivory handle. Now that's panache, or ham.

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ADD VPP's: Lone Pine's Jeff Geiger, who operates the Tri-County Ambulance Service. He's making a collection of photos - mishap memorabilia - that show him and his ambulance attendants in action. We're sending along a few.

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DOUG BUCHANAN, THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, complains that the news service gets all its news from the prosecutor's office - giving the news-slant

to the DA and the sheriff. Doug, poor baby, is a former newspaper reporter, and he should know. We've found that officials who are willing to open up to the press get a fair shake. Doug is a very busy man, as was his predecessor, Ken Murphey - so who's got time to talk to reporters, unless they have a complaint?

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WE'RE ALMOST AFRAID TO MENTION IT, for fear of changing their luck, but the Owens Valley girls' basketball team at Owens Valley School has won every game in the past two years - to date, 24 in a row, not counting practice games which they've also won. I'm no sports watcher, but a record like that merits an item for sure.

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I'D LIKE TO SAY "HAVE A NICE DAY" but we've already been over that...So, may the news in your day be good news...every day.

Sincerely,

BK

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## JARVIS' HAUNTS OFFICIALDOM

FEARING MONETARY CUTBACKS, SCHOOL OFFICIALS WOULD DEFEAT THE AMENDMENT

**L**OOMING EERILY LIKE SOME OTHER-WORLD SPECTRE, its presence now more felt than seen, is California's Jarvis Amendment. A fearsome threat come to haunt government officials everywhere, it is the ghostie conjured up by an angry, tax-weary public which may materialize it - perhaps to their own horror - next summer.

Already in Inyo County, officialdom is on the record with dark warnings about county layoffs and cutbacks in services, and, last week, the county's educators called a hurried meeting to make their own fiscal plans; if Jarvis passes, the schools, too, may cut back programs and lay off teachers.

"Jarvis" supporters allow as to how their proposal will limit property taxes - even bring on some telling cutbacks. Such cuts will clearly reduce government budgets ranging from the statehouse to the courthouse, with a resultant cut in services.

Inyo's own tax assessor, Jack Clay, sees a bright side to Jarvis, as do many overtaxed property owners. Says Clay: "A good thing. It's waking up the people in Sacramento. It's so drastic, they'll have to do something about tax relief now."

But if the public Faustus conjures Proposition 13 to reality, it will collect its share of the pact. The local schools, for instance, may lose up to 50 percent of their annual income. Inyo's school superintendents, panicky over that possibility, met in emergency session; they must decide as early as March 1 if they will have to cut back personnel. Jarvis, it seems, was scheduled for a public vote, June 6, in a period long after the county government, and the schools, must make up their 1978-79 budgets. Jarvis' impact on financing remains, until 'way after the election, an unknown factor.

Bill Nolan, Big Pine's superintendent, said late last week that the passage of the amendment could possibly mean a cut in his staff, classified employees, and, ultimately, learning opportunities to Big Pine's students. Nolan said his school is not yet faced with making up two separate budgets (one without, one with) since, in his words, "it would only create confusion and bad feelings." He was more hopeful than many: "I have more faith in the voters anyway. I don't think it will pass."

"As far as I know, I don't believe the board will cut any personnel. If we did, it would be a cost in itself for hearings."

The superintendents talked about rural schools which often can afford but one mathematics teacher, one science teacher, and perhaps one english teacher to serve many grade levels; they see the possibility of cutbacks ending entire programs. With the March 1 deadline looming dead ahead, they are faced with tough decisions, to be made blindly, now.

Asked if the Owens Valley School can live with a voter-approved Jarvis, Superintendent John Gilfillan said simply, "I don't think so," but he grasped a possible alternative: that of retaining all the school's personnel, and just keeping things running until the money is gone sometime next year. Like Nolan, Gilfillan sees

that firing teachers now is "destroying the morale of a lot of people, and efficiency too, through Spring."

"It would have a serious effect on the kids."

Another consideration that the educators want to drive home to the parent-voters is another dire warning. If teachers go, so do the qualifications for university entrance, for any students making plans in that direction.

Although schools might suffer badly in the appearance of Jarvis' tax restrictions, county government would suffer less - even though a million-dollar cutback in county budgeting would mean a severe blow. Assessor Clay says the "actual" cuts are still in terms of "very rough figures," but that whatever the figures are, there would still be "a grave reduction in county operations, unless the state picks up the tab."

A possibility of course, but unlikely in view of the fact that "the state" itself will be dealing with its own cutbacks.

Clay says he has "had a lot of calls" on the Jarvis proposal. "I'm hoping for a big media campaign on Jarvis, starting now. So far, the analyses of the initiative have been hasty." Echoing Clay are other officials who believe that once the public is knowledgeable about the amendment, they'll withdraw their support.

But there is a segment of tax-payers, some say a majority, that is willing to support such radical proposals out of the desperation of California's burdensome tax-load; among these is another segment of older people unconcerned with school operations since they have no children in the schools. And outside of that group is the other - those who may not approve of Jarvis, but who nonetheless feel that government must somehow get the message it has refused to hear for so long: Cut taxes, improve efficiency, give us our money's worth.

Jarvis' six-point initiative admittedly leaves a lot of room for interpretation. The essence of the amendment, in broad terms, is the limitation to one percent, in taxes, to the full cash value of the property. The "full cash value" is to be set on the basis of 1975 appraisals, and increases in "fair market value" would be limited to 2% per year. To raise taxes over Jarvis' limitations, government would have to get a full two-thirds of the "qualified electors" to approve - unlikely if viewed in the light of voters' reluctance to turn out at the polls.

The legislators - pitching for public support - warn that the Jarvis Amendment will "shift tax burdens from business to homeowners," but they offer little convincing evidence to support the claim.

As for the schools' hope for a public turn-down, they, like government, have been under criticism for some time: Kids leave the schools/as "graduates" unable to read, or to write a simple sentence - an undisciplined lot that the public often finds on the police records. Now that the schools need public support, they may have to face such criticism before they get it, thus Jarvis becomes still another

(See JARVIS, Page 7)



## NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

transmission and tire sale shop, this after he had been told by the Planning Commission he'd need a conditional use permit and that he should put his shop in a C-1 (commercial) zone. It was explained that "gasoline stations" belong in R2/C2. Following the logic of illogic, the supervisors offered Merchant a solution: Put up a gas pump somewhere and make the site legal, or, forget it. They vetoed the PC's turn-down, and approved Merchant's project. R2/C2, it appears, is open to many interpretations, but its performance won't win any awards among zoning purists.

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"IT COULD WHACK OFF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS," SAYS Supervisor Richard McDonald of his proposal to cut back on the county's expenditures for automobiles. McDonald has been taking a hard look at county officials' needs for autos and the increasingly costly travel expense bills. The supervisors haggled briefly over ways to effect cutbacks. One of these, a Bishop-Independence bus service, was vetoed when the cost of insurance was brought up. Department heads who like their cars sighed with relief.

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LONE PINE'S PROJECT TO RENOVATE THE OLD, HISTORIC Lone Pine Hotel took a jump ahead in the recent hiring of a project supervisor, Dick Ogden, through the CETA program. Still lacking, however, are the funds to complete extensive electrical work. The Artisans' Guild, which aspires to turn the old hotel complex into a patio of shops, may promote a raffle to get the needed \$6,000.

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DOG POISONERS, SEEN BY MODERN PSYCHIATRY AS "seriously disturbed," are hard to catch, and, in Inyo County they are hard at work. Rabies Control Officer Robert Rubio sees a recent increase in strychnine poisoning and he reported four cases in Southern Inyo. For the cynophobiacs - psychiatry's name for poisoners - there may be clinical remedies, but the sheriff's office has its own: jail, on felony charges. Rubio indicates that dog owners are not completely innocent in the issue; poisonings are more prevalent in areas where the leash law goes ignored.

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IRRITATED TELEPHONE USERS ARE COMING TO DOUBT the efficiency of new equipment. In recent weeks they've found increasing difficulty in reaching their parties through "direct dialing." Questioned about the problem, spokesmen for Continental Telephone of California registered surprise: "The new microwave system at Independence is working beautifully." ConTelCal Manager Dewey Weatherford said he doesn't know of any "serious problems," but he did suggest that on weekends, when up to 60 thousand skiers increase equipment usage, local callers might make only "necessary" calls.

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DEVELOPER DEAN KNIGHT WANTS "CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS" to meet - and, presumably, to drink - at his proposed club at Knight Manor, a mobile home development near Big Pine. To get a needed general "on-sale" liquor license, instead of the private club license he says he already has, he must go again before the planning commission - this time defending his position at a public

## NO MORE "CD BISQUITS"

WHERE TO GO WHEN THE WHISTLES BLOW?  
CIVIL DEFENSE OFFERS FUZZY ANSWERS

LIVING WITH THE VAGUE SUPPOSITION THAT NOTHING much is going to happen anyway, Inyo residents, like Americans everywhere, have turned their war worries over to a broad and ill-defined national organization they call "Civil Defense." Not since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 has anyone given much thought to what may (but hopefully won't) occur if a Russian maniac "pushes the button."

"Civil Defense" has come to be known as something that sends help when there's a tornado or a flood, neither of which is deemed likely in the Owens Valley. For a number of years, Inyo's civil defense directors saw to it that "shelters" - usually abandoned mines - were supplied with CD's emergency goods, including thousands of a particularly tasteless kind of bisquit, the "Civil Defense Bisquit." But no more; the mines are abandoned again, the bisquits, now more stale than before, have been cast aside, and the "geiger counters" are long since gone. "Detente" has soothed nerves.

Inyo's Director of Civil Defense, Linda Hulsey, says that Inyo's philosophy of CD is now that of "self-help, being prepared, learning to take care of yourself." It is the current national CD policy to think, as Hulsey outlines, that "We're as well off to go to our own cabinets for emergency food. We're getting away from the 'run-and-hide' theory, all in a less panicky fashion."

Not so, say the early CD warnings. Radiation, then and now, poses (for Inyo County at least) a troubling question. It demands that the individual keep up to three feet of concrete between him and the "fallout," for up to two weeks. But Hulsey says "a hallway will do, or a centrally-located bathroom. They must be blocked off as tightly as possible. Duck and cover, pull your food and water in and wait for radiation to subside." But, Hulsey admits, all that depends on radio communications and many other "if's," few of which seem to hold up under close examination. It is clear that Owens Valley is probably considered by the Russian targeteers as a prime, first-priority target. But it is also true that southerly winds could bring China Lake's fallout here in as little as three hours.

Inyo's officialdom actually has very few concrete plans. It is assumed, probably with exaggerated optimism, that all the officials would remain staunchly at their posts - and not head for home to see after their own families. Hulsey said she will remain at "a radio in Bishop."

If an atmosphere of disconcert pervades the Civil Defense atmosphere of the United

(See CIVIL DEFENSE, Page 7)

hearing. About half a dozen residents from another Knight development, nearby Rolling Green Estates, may turn up to protest the license. Of them Knight says, "People are resistant to change, to anything new. This is the best development Inyo County will ever see." Planning Commissioners are given to disagreeing with Knight, but the supervisors usually go along with him on appeal.



"SSSHHHH", Continued

is "dish." But technically speaking, the big (probes?) are also referred to as "antennas," or "antennae," "radio-telescopes," "reflectors" and a host of other names even more technical, depending on what physics discipline you've been exposed to. As for what they do, yes, they listen to the stars, or, more inclusively, "objects" that emit radio waves.

Are they listening, perhaps, for the signal, deep in space, broadcast frantically outward by some intelligence trying to contact the Earth? No, but, presumably, they'd hear that too if all the wavelengths were right and if anyone were all that concerned.

Last week, Caltech's biggest "ear" (130-foot diameter) was tuned in to nothing more sophisticatedly spacey than our own solar system's familiar Jupiter. Okay, so what does Old Jove "sound" like? The answer, as patiently provided by a Caltech electronics expert, Harry Hardebeck of Bishop, is to the layman less than completely satisfactory: "We're not dealing with 'sound' so much," says Hardebeck, "but with 'voltage.' The radio emissions and wavelengths are converted into electronic voltage." But pressing the question, attempting to find something to relate to, the visitor is rewarded by Hardebeck's admission: "Well, Jupiter does have a 'sound,' a kind of static noise - like 'ssshhhh,' but the scientists are not much interested in 'sounds'."

What then?

Well, they are calculating and measuring Jupiter's voltage. And that's not much. Hardebeck explains that Jupiter's is not really a lot of power - "like one watt divided by a number with 26 zeroes." Pretty fine stuff, alright.

A reporter, clumsily trying to bring the questions and the answers into a framework of Earthman's understanding, then posed a hypothetical situation. He found that Hardebeck and the other scientists don't care much for such hypotheses, but courteously he gave some thought to the proposition: that of a Good Ole Boy parked on the moon in a rig equipped with a standard citizens band radio (Radius about 10 miles, depending on conditions).

"Could you pick up his signal with one of those dishes?" was the obvious question, however embarrassingly irrelevant it might be.

"Theoretically, yes," was Hardebeck's answer. So Caltech's ears are that sensitive.

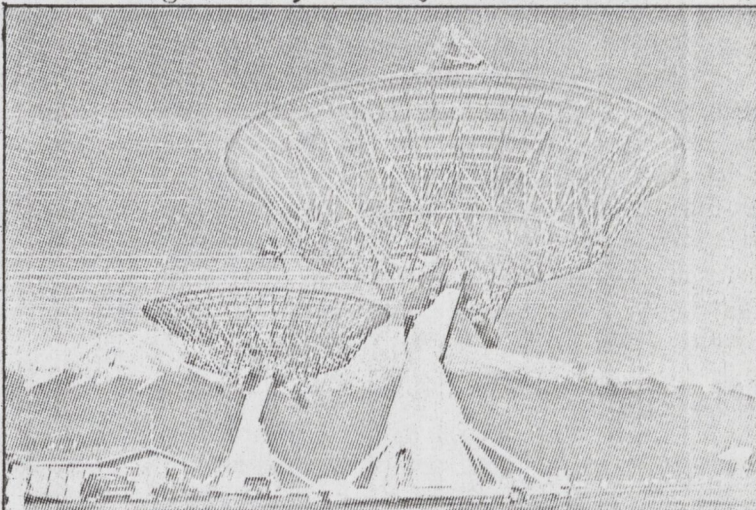
But in fact the astronomers are not at all concerned with hypothetical moonbased CBs, nor with wavelengths of a type regarded by most of us as the usual radio or television signals. Their giant dishes listen, instead, to our amazingly noisy galaxy and the galaxies beyond.

The people at the sprawling Big Pine installation take their orders from the theoreticians at Pasadena. On instructions they will turn the dishes in a fine-tuned direction that is exact (within a tolerance of one degree of an arc, as we understand it), and then set a computer that calculates the movement of the earth and the object. From there on in, movement of the big dishes is controlled by the computer that "follows" the orbit or trajectory of the object. They listen to "pulsars" and "quasars" and they gather data that may later support or deny the astronomers' latest

idea - that of the "black hole" concept in which matter from a planet is drained off into "something" that is so dense it neither emits nor reflects light rays. They've found that objects in space are being gobbled up by such "black holes." Does the earth have anything to fear? -Well, no, these things are happening 'way out there somewhere.

The operation is "science for the sake of science," as Hardebeck readily admits. It has little or no immediate practicality in the present world's dollars-and-cents evaluations.

However "unusable" the data may be, Caltech wants more of it - and soon, three more of the big dishes, already under construction,



CALTECH'S "DISHES" NEAR BIG PINE  
...a kind of static noise - like 'ssshhhh'...

will appear on the Owens Valley plain, this at a cost expected to be near \$1½ million. Once installed, the expanded research may require additional personnel. About 15-20 people presently work there.

Why more - all they do is pick up static anyway, "like the hum of an FM set"?

Thankfully, "science" feels this unquenchable thirst for data. The scientists compile their information, sometimes compare notes, and they come up with a theory. Without such theoretical speculations, the "space-age" and its technology would not exist. Big Pine's dishes support theories, proving them out - or denying them. Such is the stuff of which "science" is made.

Right here in Inyo County, California, thanks.

Want to buy a piece of the satellite action?

A new satellite, Sincom IV, is for sale at 5.8 million, and it promises sophisticated levels of communication: radio, TV, and computer information - considered invaluable in emergency and disaster.

Governor Brown's science advisor, Rusty Schweickart (California's "Six Million Dollar Man") recommends the purchase for the state.

Hardebeck says observatories such as the one at Big Pine could use such a satellite for a communications network, "useful in experiments."

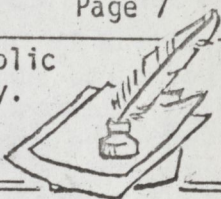
The purchase is still uncertain since tax-weary voters are keeping an eye on government expenditures.

Inyo's Assemblyman Larry Chimbole favors the purchase.



NEWS-LETTER welcomes letters and comment relevant to public issues. The editors will publish those considered timely.

Letters should not exceed 200 words, and those expressing concise viewpoints are most likely to be published. Address your statement to Box 531, Independence 93526



## "VILLAINOUS PREVARICATORS OF DECEIT"; THE REAL WELFARE ABUSE News-Letter,

Yes, there are abuses of the welfare system (A NEW "MATCH" GAME, NEWS-LETTER, Feb. 13) as well as unemployment and other public services. Who, we ask, are these villainous prevaricators of deceit? -The separated mother who can't afford to work for \$2.65 an hour while a baby-sitter costs a dollar an hour and up? -The unemployed who would get 10 cents an hour raise once a year for good services rendered, provided minimum wages aren't increased?

These people are sometimes the abused, abused by those public servants in prestigious elected positions who allocate unto themselves certain benefits in the form of raises, transportation and meal accommodations. Let us not forget to mention their abuse of power.

When I see these "abuses" of public services, I look to whom they've learned it from - from the people elected to public office, bar none, President or supervisor.

- Peter L. Pearson  
Bishop

(Editors' note: NEWS-LETTER is unable to discover anything in Reader Pearson's letter with which it would disagree. Mr. Pearson is presently seeking election as a city councilman at Bishop. From the tone of his communication it is presumed he would work toward eliminating the official abuse he mentions.)

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"WE SHOULD ALL SPEAK UP":  
MORE FROM READER WARRICK  
Dear Sir:

I noticed you published my letter in your News-Letter. I am an ardent fan for Sr. Citizens' Clubs here in Bishop.

I would like a few copies to pass around to my members. Is this possible? I could probably get you new members. I admire your courage in saying it like you feel - we should all speak up, get the message across, bad or good.

- Jeanette Warrick  
President, Original  
Sr. Citizens Club  
Bishop

(Editors' note: NEWS-LETTER again thanks Reader Warrick for her interest, and for her generous compliment. Will five copies be enough? They're on the way.)

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### \* CASH FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Although NEWS-LETTER does not actively "push" for subscribers, it is eager to reach as many Inyo residents as might be interested in its particular content.

NEWS-LETTER would happily pay a generous commission to any of the county's senior citizens' groups that might wish to sell its subscriptions. If interested, please write to NEWS-LETTER for details.

## CIVIL DEFENSE, Continued

States, our presumed enemy, Russia, allows no such apathy. Recent intelligence reveals that if in fact a nuclear war occurred, the American missilemen would be hard put to hit anything significant, and the number of Russian casualties might amount to less than half the World War II toll, or only about 20 million.

In recent years, the Russians have scattered their industries over wide areas. Shelter construction is so sophisticated that entire cities literally exist deep inside radiation-secure mountains. Giant underground food storage facilities (containing a great deal of American grain), atom-proof, are everywhere. In Russia, "Civil Defense" education begins in the second grade of school, and continues to age 60. Every Russian "knows what to do," and, based on the Russian knowledge that we won't shoot first, has the time to do it. A counter-attack would find few of the enemy vulnerable. American intelligence estimates that about 10 Americans would die for every Russian killed.

But national Civil Defense is not blind to Russia's efforts. In Inyo County Hulsey reports that "some re-organizing" is going on in Washington, but she's "not sure" what is happening there. "I do know that in some California metropolitan areas, plans for re-location are underway, and there is a re-emphasis on being prepared."

The question remains: How many here actually know what to do - and have the means to do it? In truth, very few. US Civil Defense amounts, now, to an umbrella in a hurricane. "Nothing will happen here anyway."

## JARVIS, Continued

weapon in the hands of a public seriously doubtful that the schools can even keep the youngsters well-behaved, much less teach them anything.

But schools, here and elsewhere, like governments, are slow to change their ways; it is easier to cut services, and put the blame back on the taxpayer.

## SEVEN PINES, Continued

quality of the Seven Pines" site. Argues Lewis: "Campsites out in the sagebrush are not frequented, but the ones at Seven Pines - under the trees and close to the creek - would be highly desirable by the public."

Precisely why the homeowners, who have sunk thousands into the property, wish to remain there. As a consequence, they do not share the Forest Service's enthusiasm in serving the "higher need," especially not in a county suffering a severe housing shortage caused, in part at least, by the Forest Service's presence here.

Predictably, Seven Pines' homeowners are currently banding together to oppose the lads in USFS green. They have formed the "Seven Pines Cabin Association," and, in view of the opposition, some Forest Service officials are

(See SEVEN PINES, Back Page)



SEVEN PINES, Continued

privately re-examining the situation, and some of these admit to a certain sympathy.

Forest Service Supervisor Bob Rice defends the government position, pointing out with some reason that "if we make land available, the law has to permit us to do so. There has to be a law on the books." (That old "mistress" again.)

Asked if he is aware of the housing situation in Inyo County, Rice said, "Yes, we're aware of that. But what plays into this is that we are not in the business of setting up residential areas. It's not an option, as far as we're concerned. This is a pretty important point. Irregardless of the county's land base, there is nothing on the books that permits us to make land available for residences. There's got to be a law permitting us before we can do it."

But back in 1939 - when the Forest Service was no more than the old CCC grown into puberty - such bureaucratic "law" was not so coolly impersonal. That was the year that the Holgate lease deal was made, and, if the present owner, Harry Holgate, is to be believed, the deal was good for 99 years. Visitors to the Holgate house at Seven Pines are instantly struck with the thought that the family would hardly invest so much based on mere 20-year leases. And several of the other houses are of equal quality, putting the lie to the "cabin" appellation. But in the 1950's, the Forest Service, now grown beyond adolescence and into the adulthood of true bureaucracy, "re-wrote" the lease for 20 years, take it or

leave it.

The Seven Pines owners are willing to live with the existing campground - in spite of the depredations of tourists and the numerous fires they start in the area. "We feel," says Holgate, "that we can co-exist with the campground. The use numbers indicate there is no additional need for campground space."

And another issue, sewage. (The "mistress," now turned harridan, has a lot of gimmicks provided lovingly by her admirers.) To the sewage question, Holgate offers no argument. "We are aware of sewer requirements," he avers, "if we are to stay. But the Forest Service system is large enough to accomodate us." True, probably; the number of users falls far short of the number who camp there.

Speaking for the other homeowners, Holgate points out the investments in the houses. "I've invested a lot of money in the cabin, and would hate to lose it."

For now at least, the Seven Pines tract is the only lease area in danger of Forest Service destruction. Rice persists: "The summer home tracts' original purpose was for recreation, the intent being a part-time cabin."

But a few in the USFS wonder if the Inyo National Forest really needs that many more barbecue grills, "choice" spot or not. One of these, Jim Arasim at Lone Pine's Inyo Forest station, has filed an alternative solution, to be used "if needed." But he declined to elaborate on its details.

As for the "law," the Seven Pines owners will probably contest it to the last letter. After all, with six million more acres around, why.....

eastern sierra news service

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